

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 282735

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-01 PPT-01 SCA-01 RSC-01 /016 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:OABARTLEY:JCM

APPROVED BY EA/VN:OABARTLEY,JR.

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R 272240Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CVIS, VS

SUBJECT: DEPORTATION OF JOHN MARKS

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DECEMBER 27 BUT WAS NOT USED BY HIM SINCE QUESTION WAS NOT RAISED AT FORMAL BRIEFING. GUIDANCE WAS USED FOR RESPONSE TO PRIVATE QUESTION RAISED CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS, INCLUDING SENATOR CASE AND ACLU.

2. BEGIN QUOTE

QUESTION: HAS JOHN MARKS BEEN ARRESTED OR DEPORTED FROM SAIGON? IF SO, HAS OUR EMBASSY PROTESTED? WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON THE ARREST OR EXPULSION OF AMERICANS FROM VIET-NAM?

ANSWER: OUR EMBASSY IN SAIGON LEARNED OF THE MARKS CASE AFTER THE FACT. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT MR. MARKS ENTERED VIET-NAM AS A TOURIST, BEING ROUTINELY PROCESSED THROUGH THE VIETNAMESE IMMIGRATION SERVICE AT TON SON NHUT AIRFIELD. WITHIN A DAY HIGHER GVN AUTHORITY DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD BEEN ADMITTED IN ERROR SINCE HE IS

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PAGE 02 STATE 282735

CONSIDERED BY THE GVN TO BE AN INADMISSABLE ENTRANT.
HE WAS THEN ORDERED TO LEAVE, WHICH HE DID.

MR. MARKS DID NOT ENTER VIET-NAM AS AN ACCREDITED
JOURNALIST AND DID NOT SEEK PRESS ACCREDITATION WHILE
THERE. ALTHOUGH HE MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN TO OUR PRESS
OFFICE IN SAIGON, HE DID NOT SEE U.S. OFFICIALS THERE
OR SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE.

OUR EMBASSY OF COURSE, WILL SEEK TO DETERMINE IF
THERE ARE PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT THE CASE WHICH IT DOES
NOT KNOW AT PRESENT. IT HAS NOT PROTESTED THIS CASE
SINCE IT APPEARS AT THIS POINT TO BE SIMPLY ONE OF AN
ALIEN ADMITTED IN ERROR ACCORDING TO VIETNAMESE
REGULATIONS.

(IF ASKED): WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON MARKS'
TRAVELING COMPANION, REPORTED TO BE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN,
BARBARA GUSS. SHE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE ORDER TO LEAVE
ALTHOUGH SHE MAY HAVE LEFT WITH MR. MARKS.
END QUOTE BROWN

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